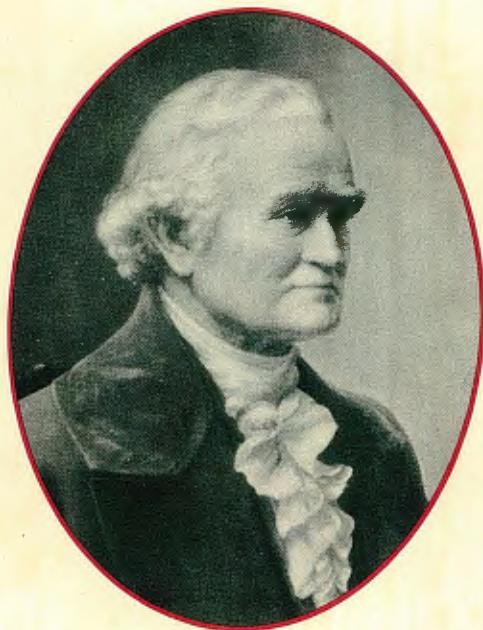


*A*  
*Compendious Dictionary*  
*of the English Language*

*A facsimile of the first (1806) edition*



*Noah Webster*

*with an Introduction by PHILIP B. GOVE*

*Editor in Chief*

*Webster's Third New International Dictionary*

*A chronology of major dictionaries  
edited by Noah Webster and Merriam-Webster*

A COMPENDIOUS DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE	1806
AN AMERICAN DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE	1828
AN AMERICAN DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE <i>Second Edition</i>	1840
AN AMERICAN DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE <i>New Revised Edition</i>	1847*
AN AMERICAN DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE <i>Royal Quarto Edition, Unabridged</i>	1864
WEBSTER'S INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY	1890
WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY	1909
WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY <i>Second Edition</i>	1934
WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY	1961
<hr/>	
WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY	1898
WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, <i>Second Edition</i>	1910
WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, <i>Third Edition</i>	1916
WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, <i>Fourth Edition</i>	1931
WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, <i>Fifth Edition</i>	1936
WEBSTER'S NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, <i>Sixth Edition</i>	1949
WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY	1963

\*Following Noah Webster's death in 1841, George and Charles Merriam obtained exclusive publishing rights to Webster's American Dictionary copyrighted in 1840, which was Webster's last and most comprehensive work, together with exclusive rights to publish revisions and abridgments. They published the first Merriam-Webster dictionary in 1847.

SON Roosaat WDNY

*A facsimile of the first (1806) edition*

*A  
Compendious  
Dictionary of the  
English Language*

*Noah Webster*

*with an Introduction by PHILIP B. GOVE  
Editor in Chief  
Webster's Third New International Dictionary*

This is a precise copy of Noah Webster's first dictionary, representing the author's earliest attempt to create for general use a concise listing of five thousand common words, a majority of which were omitted in other lexicons of his day.

Noah Webster was a natural linguist and a born definer of words. The Preface to this volume displays his remarkable grasp of the nature of language. Self-taught in more than twenty languages, Webster theorized about the origin, history, and relation of various tongues, reaching this conclusion: "English, like every living language, is in a state of progression, as rapid now as at any former period; even more rapid, than before the great Dr. Johnson flattered himself that he might fix the language and put a stop to alterations....It is fruitless to attempt to fix that which is in its

*(continued on back flap)*

*Portrait of Noah Webster*  
© G. & C. MERRIAM CO.,  
PUBLISHERS OF THE MERRIMAN-WEBSTER  
DICTIONARIES

Ab'negate, *v. t.* to deny, disown, refuse  
 Abno'cation, *n.* a cutting excrescences from trees  
 Abnor'mity, *n.* deformity, irregularity  
 Abnor'mous, *a.* out of rule or order, irregular  
 Ab'oard, *ad.* in a ship, safe, secure, at ease  
 Ab'ode, *n.* a habitation, stay, continuance, delay  
 Ab'ode, *v. t.* to prognosticate, foreshow, ob.  
 Ab'odement, *n.* a secret anticipation, a preface, ob.  
 Ab'olish, *v. t.* to destroy, repeal, make void  
 Ab'olishable, *a.* that may be destroyed  
 Ab'olisher, *n.* a person that abolishes or destroys  
 Ab'olishment, Ab'olition, *n.* the act of repealing  
 Abom'inable, *a.* detestable, very hateful, abhorred  
 Abom'inableness, *n.* extreme odiousness  
 Abom'inably, *ad.* very hatefully, odiously  
 Abom'inate, *v. t.* to hate, loathe, abhor, detest  
 Abom'ination, *n.* an object of hatred, a pollution  
 Abori'ginal, *a.* first or primitive  
 Abori'ginals, *n. pl.* first or primitive inhabitants  
 Abortion, Abort'ment, *n.* a miscarriage in women  
 Abort'ive, *a.* untimely, unsuccessful; *n.* a vellum  
 Abortiveness, *n.* the state of being abortive  
 Abound', *v. t.* to have in plenty, or be in plenty  
 Abound'ing, *pa.* plentiful, increasing [try way  
 About', *pr.* near to, concerning; *ad.* around, eve-  
 Above', [abuv] *pr.* higher, more; *ad.* overhead  
 Above'board, *ad.* without reserve or artifice  
 Above'cited, *a.* cited before, mentioned before  
 Above'ground, *ad.* alive, living, not in the grave  
 Above'mentioned, *a.* mentioned above or before  
 Abrade, *v. t.* to rub or scrape off, to grate  
 Abrasion, *n.* a rubbing, wearing or scraping off  
 Abreast', *ad.* side by side, on a line with, opposite  
 Abridge', *v. t.* to contract, shorten, deprive  
 Abridg'ed, *pa.* shortened, deprived of  
 Abridg'er, *n.* a person that shortens or contracts  
 Abridg'ment, *n.* a work abridged or shortened  
 Abróach, *ad.* in readiness to run or come out  
 Abroad, [abrawd] *ad.* out, out of doors, in another country  
 Ab'rogate, *v. t.* to repeal, annul, abolish  
 Abrogátion, *n.* the act of repealing [nected  
 Abrupt', *a.* sudden, hasty, broken, rough, uncon-  
 Abrupt'ion, *n.* a violent and sudden separation  
 Abrupt'ly, *ad.* suddenly, unseasonably, roughly  
 Abrupt'nes, *n.* great haste, suddenness, roughness  
 Ab'scess, *n.* a swelling or cavity containing matter  
 Ab'scind', *v. t.* to cut off, pare off, rend off or away  
 Ab'scission, *n.* the act of cutting or rending off

Ab'solute', *v. t.* to make absolute, confirm, establish, fortify, confirm, settle  
 Ab'solute, *a.* not limited, arbitrary, sovereign, entire, absolute, final, entire, total  
 Ab'soluteness, *n.* positively, arbitrarily, sovereign, entire, absolute, final, entire, total  
 Ab'solution, *n.* forgiveness, a pardoning, remission, discharge, discharge, discharge, discharge  
 Ab'solutor, *a.* tending to absolve, or absolve  
 Ab'sonant, Ab'sonous, *a.* absent, lost, pa. to fuck up, swallow up, waste  
 Ab'sorb', *v. t.* absorbed, pret. absorbed  
 Ab'sorbability, *n.* capacity of being absorbed  
 Ab'sorb'able, *a.* that may be absorbed  
 Ab'sorb'ent, *a.* sucking up, trying to absorb  
 Ab'sorp'tion, *n.* a vessel or substance which  
 Ab'sorp'tive, *a.* absorbing, tending to absorb  
 Ab'stain, *v. t.* to forbear, refuse, deny  
 Ab'stemious, *a.* temperate in diet  
 Ab'stemiously, *ad.* temperately  
 Ab'stemiousness, *n.* temperance in diet  
 Ab'stirge' or Ab'stirse', *v. t.* to clean, purify  
 Ab'stir'gent or Ab'stir'live, *a.* cleaning, purifying  
 Ab'stir'ion, *n.* the act of cleaning or purifying  
 Ab'stinence, *n.* a refraining from, temperance  
 Ab'stinent, *a.* refraining from, temperate  
 Ab'stract', *v. t.* to separate, remove, take  
 Ab'stract, *n.* an abridgement, summary  
 Ab'stract', *a.* abstracted, separated, pa.  
 Ab'stract'ed, *pa.* separated, abstract, abstracted  
 Ab'stract'edly, Ab'stractly, *ad.* singly, by itself  
 Ab'stract'edness, *n.* an abstracted state  
 Ab'straction, *n.* a drawing from, a figure  
     ideas, withdrawing from the world  
 Ab'strúfe, *a.* difficult to be understood, obscure  
 Ab'strúfely, *ad.* obscurely, not plainly, not clearly  
 Ab'strúfeness, *n.* obscurity of meaning  
 Ab'surd', *a.* contrary to reason, foolish, ridiculous  
 Ab'surd'ity, *n.* unreasonableness, inconsistency  
 Ab'surd'ly, *ad.* unreasonably, inconsistently  
 Ab'surd'nes, *n.* absurdity, inconsistency  
 Abun'dance, *n.* great plenty, great mass  
 Abun'dant, *a.* plentiful, abounding with  
 Abun'dantly, *ad.* plentifully, perfectly, abundantly  
 Abuse, [abuze] *v. t.* to treat ill, worse, ill  
 Abuse, *n.* the ill use of any thing, injury  
 Abused, *pa.* used ill, treated poorly, injured  
 Abuser, *n.* one that uses another poorly  
 Ab'usive, *a.* conveying abuse, offensive  
 Ab'usively, *ad.* in an abusive manner, roughly  
 Ab'usiveness, *n.* ill usage, bad language  
 Abut', *v. t.* to border upon, join, touch

Abut'ment, *n.* the solid part of a wall  
 Abut'ment, *n.* pl. boundaries  
 Abys'mus, *n.* a bottomless pit  
 Abys'mian, *n.* a native  
 Abys'mian, *a.* pertaining  
 Acacia, *n.* a plant, the acacia  
 Acadé'mian, Acadé'mic  
     mid, *n.* a student at, a  
 Acadé'mic, Acadé'my  
 Acadé'my, *n.* a Platonic  
 Acadé'my, *n.* a school  
 Acal'azon, *n.* a Mexican  
 Acan'icous, *a.* prickly  
 Acanthias, *n.* a fish  
 Acanthias, *a.* pertaining  
 Acanthus, *n.* the herb  
     its leaves in building  
 Ac'arus, *n.* an insect infest  
 Acatalectic, *n.* a verse  
 Acatalectic, *a.* very many  
 Accéde, *v. t.* to come  
 Accel'erate, *v. t.* to hasten  
 Accelerated, *pa.* hastened  
 Acceleration, *n.* a hasty  
 Accend', *v. t.* to light  
 Accen'tion, *n.* the act of  
 Accent, *n.* a mark on a  
 Accent', *v. t.* to note  
 Accent'ual, *a.* relating to  
 Accentuation, *n.* a place  
 Accept', *v. t.* to take  
 Acceptable, *a.* agreeable  
 Acceptably, *ad.* pleasingly  
 Accept'ance, *n.* appro-  
     bill of exchange for  
 Acceptation, Accept'ion  
 Accept'er, *n.* one who  
 Accept's, *n.* admission, a  
     of approach, invasion  
 Access'ary, *a.* contributive  
 Access'ible, *a.* that may be  
 Access'ibility, *n.* the fac-  
 Acces'sion, *n.* the ad-  
 Access'ory, *n.* one who  
 Accid'ence, *n.* a book of  
 Accident, *n.* a proper  
     comes to pass without  
 Accidental, *a.* casual  
 Accidentally, *ad.* by chance  
 Accipiters, *n.* a genus  
     the sturgeon, rutherford  
 Accipiters, *n.* an order  
 Acclaim, Acclamation  
 Accel'ivity, *a.* the ascen-  
 Accloy', *v. t.* to cloy  
 Accom'modable, *a.* that  
 Accom'modate, *v. t.*  
 Accom'modate, *a.* full

dy, taint  
 us, tainting  
 on, contagiously  
 ty  
 r, calamity  
 aw, conclude  
 from premises  
 ed or concluded  
 ; a. lower, less  
 ity or place  
 er, lying below  
 l, barren, poor  
 nness, poverty  
 ue, annoy  
 hes to laymen,  
 traitor, pagap  
 ory, absurd  
 belief in Christ  
 g the interstices  
 pores, the sub-  
 bounded, end-  
 tensely  
 fness, infinity  
 ll part  
 a. unlimited  
 mensity  
 ly, irresolute  
 shake, shatter  
 , a hospital  
 ult, diseasé  
 craziness  
 implant

Influential, *a.* having or running into power over  
 influen'za, *n.* an epidemic cold or catarrh  
 In'flux, *n.* the act of flowing in, increase, power  
 Infold, *v. t.* to involve, inwrap, inclose, fold up  
 Infoliate, *v. t.* to cover or wrap with leaves  
 Inform', *v. t.* to tell, acquaint, accuse, animate  
 Inform', *a.* unshapen, shapeless, ugly, uncouth  
 Inform'al, *a.* informing, accusing, irregular, loose  
 Informal'ity, *n.* want of form or technical manner  
 Inform'ant, Inform'er, *n.* one who informs  
 Informátion, *n.* intelligence, notice, a charge  
 Inform'able, *a.* not to be feared or dreaded  
 Inform'ity, *n.* shapelessness, irregularity, ugliness  
 Inform'ous, *a.* shapeless, irregular, rough, strange  
 Infor'tunate, *a.* unlucky, unhappy, miserable  
 Infrac't, *v. t.* to break, crush, violate  
 Infrac'tion, *n.* the act of breaking, a violation  
 Inframund'ane, *a.* lying or set beneath the world  
 Infran'gible, *a.* not to be broken, durable, firm  
 Infréquency, *n.* uncommonness, strangeness  
 Infréquent, *a.* rare, unusual, uncommon, strange  
 Infri'gidate, *v. t.* to chill, cool, make cold, ab.  
 Infrigidátion, *n.* the act of chilling or cooling, ab.  
 Infringe', *v. t.* to violate, break, transgress  
 Infringe'ment, *n.* a violation, breach, transgression  
 Infrin'ger, *n.* a violator, breaker, transgressor  
 In'fucate, *v. t.* to paint, paint the face, daub over  
 Infundibuliform, *a.* shaped like a funnel  
 Infuriate, *v. t.* to enrage, to make mad or furious  
 Infuriate, *a.* like a fury, mad, raging, enraged  
 Infusc'ate, *v. t.* to make black, blacken, darken  
 Infuse, *v. t.* to pour in, put, steep, tincture, infuse  
 Infusible, *a.* that may be infused, that cannot be  
 fused or made liquid (ving power of heat  
 Infusibil'ity, *n.* the quality of resisting the diffus

Ingraft, *v. t.*  
 In'graft', *v. t.*  
 In'grain, *v. t.*  
 In'grained, *a.* ui  
 Ingráte, *n.* ar  
 Ingrátiating, *v.*  
 Ingratitudo, *n.*  
 Ingrédient, *n.*  
 In"gres", *n.* a  
 In"guinal, *a.*  
 Ingulf, *v. t.*  
 Ingur'gitate,  
 Ingurgitátion  
 Ingust'able,  
 Inhabil'ity,  
 Inhab'it, *v. t.*  
 Inhab'itable,  
 Inhab'itance  
 Inhab'itancy  
 rights of a  
 Inhabitant,  
 place, on  
 time to ;  
 maintena  
 Inhabitation  
 Inhálc, *v. t.*  
 Inháler, *n.*  
 Inharmónio  
 Inhére, *v. i.*  
 Inhérence,  
 Inhérent, *a.*  
 Inher'it, *v.*

Bræze, *v.t.* to cover or tucker with bras (ink)  
 Bræzen, *a.* made of brass, impudent, bold, daring  
 Bræzen, *v.i.* to bully, be impudent, stand out  
 Bræzenface, *n.* a bold impudent wretch, a bold girl  
 Bræzenfaced, *a.* impudent, shameless, very bold  
 Bræzenness, *n.* a brazen quality, great boldness  
 Breach, *n.* an opening, gap, difference, quarrel, violation, invasion, bruise, affliction by a loss  
 Bread, *n.* food made of flour or meal, provisions in general  
 Bread/corn, *n.* any corn of which bread is made  
 Bread/less, *a.* destitute of bread, or food  
 Bread/tree, *n.* a tropical tree, whose fruit is food  
 Breadth or Bredth, *n.* measure from side to side  
 Break, *v.* brake, broke, *pret.* broken, broke, *pa.* to part by force, dash to pieces, tame, become a bankrupt, ruin, fall out, violate, dawn as the day, cashier, decline in strength  
 Break, *n.* an opening, breach, failure, pause, line  
 Breakage, *n.* a breaking or allowance for things broke  
 Break'er, *n.* one that breaks, a large wave, a rock  
 Break/fast, *v.i.* to eat the morning's meal  
 Break/fast, *n.* the first meal in the day  
 Bream, *n.* a kind of coarse fish  
 Bream, *v.t.* to cleave a ship's bottom by fire  
 Breast, *n.* a part of the body, conscience, the heart  
 Breast/high, *a.* high as or reaching up to the breast  
 Breast/knot, *n.* a knot of ribands worn on the breast  
 Breast/plate, *n.* armor for the breast (breast)  
 Breast/plow, *n.* a small plough driven by the  
 Breast/work, *n.* a parapet as high as the breast  
 Breath, *n.* life, air respired, a breeze, respite, rest, ease, single moment, instant  
 Breathe, *v.* to respire, live, take breath or rest, move as air, exhale, [give vent, utter silently, make to sound  
 Breathing, *n.* a drawing breath, prayer, respite, run  
 Breath/less, *a.* out of breath, hurried, dead  
 Breccia, *n.* a stone consisting of fragments agglu-

Bréviat, *n.* a Roman, rich, short compendium, from which  
 Brévier, *n.* a small sort of printed book  
 Brevity, *n.* shortness, conciseness, compendium  
 Brew, *v.* to make liquors, plot, concoct  
 Brew'er, *n.* one who brews, one who concocts  
 Brew'ery, *n.* a house and apparatus for  
 Brew'house, *n.* a house or place for  
 Brew'ing, *n.* the act of making  
 liquor brewed, a plotting  
 Briarean, *a.* like Briareus the giant  
 Bribe, *n.* a gift to pervert the judgment  
 Bribe, *v.t.* to gain or corrupt by a bribe  
 Briber, *n.* one that gives bribes, briber  
 Bribery, *n.* the act or crime of bribing  
 Brick, *n.* clay with sand and water, a  
 mold, a loaf like a brick  
 Brick, *v.t.* to lay, form, or wall  
 Brick, *a.* made or built of brick  
 Brick/bat, *n.* a broken piece of brick  
 Brick/dust, *n.* dust made by pounding  
 Brick/ing, *n.* imitation of a brick  
 Brick/kiln, *n.* a kiln used for heating  
 Brick/layer, *n.* a mason, a worker in  
 Brick/maker, *n.* one who makes  
 Brick/y, *a.* like a brick  
 Bridal, *n.* a marriage-feast; a bride  
 Bride, *n.* a new-married woman, a  
 Bridebed, *n.* a marriage-bed  
 Bridecake, *n.* cake given to guests  
 Bridgroom, *n.* the name of a person  
 Bridemaids, *n.* a woman who attends  
 marriage  
 Bridewell, *n.* a house of correction, a  
 Bridge, *n.* a building to pass over water  
 part of the nose or of a violin  
 Bridge, *v.t.* to form a bridge over  
 Bridle, *n.* an instrument to guide and  
 Bridle, *v.* to put on a bridle, restrain  
 Bridlehand, *n.* the left or better hand  
 Brief, *n.* short extract or introduction  
 Brief, *a.* short, concise, narrow, compressed  
 Briefly, *adv.* briefly, in a few words

Transcript', *ad.* in the manner of or by a copy  
 Transcrib', *v. t.* to write down, copy, *ob.*  
 Transcur'sion, *n.* a passing beyond limits, a ramble  
 Transduc'tion, *n.* the act of conveying over  
 Translementátion, *n.* a change of elements, *ob.*  
 Transex'ion, *n.* a change of sex or nature, *ob.*  
 Transfer', *v. t.* to make over, remove, transport  
 Trans'fer, *n.* the act of making over to another  
 Transfer'rable, *a.* that may or can be transferred  
 Transferree, *n.* he to whom a transfer is made  
 Transfigurátion, *n.* a change of form, a change  
 Transfig'ure, *v. t.* to transform, to change the  
 Transfix', *v. t.* to pierce through, to kill (shape  
 Transform', *v.* to change the shape, to be changed  
 Transformátion, *n.* a change of form or state  
 Transfretátion, *n.* a passage made over a sea, *ob.*  
 Transfúse, *v. t.* to pour into another, to change  
 Transfúsion, *n.* the act of pouring into another  
 Transgress', *v.* to violate, break, offend, go beyond  
 Transgres'sion, *n.* a violation, offense, sin, crime  
 Transgress'ive, *a.* apt to break laws, guilty  
 Transgress'or, *n.* a lawbreaker, offender, sinner  
 Tranship', *v. t.* to carry from one ship to another  
 Tranship'ment, *n.* the act of transferring from one  
     ship to another  
 Tran"sient, *a.* soon past, very short, momentary  
 Tran"siently, *ad.* with short passage, slightly  
 Transil'ience, *n.* a leap from one thing to another  
 Trans'it, *n.* the passage by or over of a planet  
 Transi'tion, *n.* a passage, removal, change, leap  
 Transitive, *a.* having the power of passing over  
 Transitorily, *ad.* with a short continuance  
 Transitory, *a.* containing a short continuance

Violaceous, *a.* resembling or like violets (flour)

Violate, *v. t.* to injure, hurt, infringe, ravish, defile

Violation, *n.* an infringement, transgression, rape

Violator, *n.* one who violates, one who ravishes

Violence, *n.* force, fury, outrage, injury, an attack

Violent, *a.* forcible, furious, outrageous, sharp

Violently, *ad.* with force or fury, vehemently, fast

Violet, *n.* a sweet-smelling flower

Violin', *n.* a sweet musical instrument, a fiddle

Violist, *n.* one who plays upon the viol or violin

Violoncel'lo, *n.* a musical instrument (thing)

Viper, *n.* a serpent, adder, mischievous person or

Viperine, Viperous, *a.* of or in quality like a viper

Virágo, *n.* a very bold resolute woman, a termagant

Vírelay, *n.* a French poem of two rhymes only

Vírent, *a.* green, verdant, unfaded, blooming

Virge, *n.* a dean's mace, a white rod or staff

Virg'ate, *a.* having many twigs

Vir'gin, *v. i.* to play the virgin, to be very coy

Vir'gin, *n.* a maid unacquainted with man, a sign

Vir'gin, *a.* maidenly, untouched, pure, unmixed

Vir'ginal, *n.* an old stringed musical instrument, *ob.*

Vir'ginal, *a.* maiden, maidenly; *v. i.* to hit or

Virgin'ity, *n.* maidenhood (strike gently)

Virgin'ia, *n.* one of the United States of America

Virgin'ian, *n.* a native of Virginia

Virgin'ian, *a.* belonging to Virginia

Vir'go, *n.* the virgin, a sign in the zodiac

Virid'ity, *n.* greenness, verdure

Virile, *a.* manly, suiting a man, bold, courageous

Viril'ity, *n.* manhood, the power of procreation

Virtual, *a.* effectual, powerful, equivalent, real

Virtual, *n.* state, efficacy, power